

Covenant Community Church



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

We Gather

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Leader: Not in the mighty places of power, but in little Bethlehem, in a room out back:

People: The Messiah is coming

Leader: Not born in nobility and wealth, but of Mary and Joseph, who pondered and planed wood.

People: The Messiah is coming

Leader: Not announced by prophets, priests, and kings, but by two women, who were the first to know:

People: The Messiah is coming

Leader: Nothing will be impossible for God, but when and where we least expect it, look among the straw and the stars:

People: The Messiah is coming.

*Confession

Call to Confession (Leader)

In the world, and in this season, there are many claims on our lives. We take this time to remember that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own. We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed Jesus Christ with all our heart and mind and strength. Trusting in God's grace, let us pray.

Prayer of Confession (People)

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people

who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen

Declaration of Forgiveness (Leader)

Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world--not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Lighting of Advent Candle

Reader 1: O God, we light the fourth candle of Advent.

Reader 2: We hear your angel Gabriel and witness the faith of Mary. Fill us with your grace and light.

Reader 1: Mary was a young, strong, spiritual woman. Even though her life was not easy, she heard God's voice and said yes. Her song was a prayer that would uplift those who were downtrodden. Her lyrics shattered the proud and called the world to change. She would bear within her the promised child, Jesus, the Light of the World. This Advent, we respond to God's beckoning to us as well.

People: Revealing God, visit us and fill us with your Spirit. Bring your good news to life within us. Give us courage to carry your light into the injustices and shadows of this world. Amen

*Opening Hymn #140

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

*Opening Prayer

We Hear the Word

*Scripture

Luke 1:39-55

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

We Respond

Interlude

*Hymn #148

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*Offering Response

*What can I give him, poor that I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
but what I can I give him, give my heart.*

Prayer of Dedication

We Are Sent into the World

*Closing Hymn #134

Long Ago, Prophets Knew

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

*The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious, gracious, gracious to you,
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
And give you, give you, give you peace.*

Leader: Go in Peace. Love and serve the Lord!

People: Praise be to God!

*Denotes all who are able, please stand

Helping Us Worship

Minister to the Congregation:

Rev. Jeannette Conver

Music Leader:

Peter Olson

Scripture Reader:

Lynn Conver

Advent Reader:

Karen Zidovsky

Luke 1:39-55 New Living Translation

³⁹ A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town ⁴⁰ where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴² Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. ⁴³ Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? ⁴⁴ When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

⁴⁶ Mary responded,

"Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

⁴⁷ How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

⁴⁸ For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

⁴⁹ For the Mighty One is holy,
and he has done great things for me.

⁵⁰ He shows mercy from generation to generation
to all who fear him.

⁵¹ His mighty arm has done tremendous things!
He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.

⁵² He has brought down princes from their thrones
and exalted the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty hands.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel
and remembered to be merciful.

⁵⁵ For he made this promise to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children forever."

Contact Information

Rev. Jeannette Conner, Pastor

Pastor's cell: (206) 595-2078

Pastor Email: cccpastorjeannette@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 1 Whitcomb Meadows Lane
Essex Junction, VT 05452

Website: jerichocovenantchurch.org

Church Phone: (802) 879-4313

Diane Border, Church Administrative Assistant

admin@jerichocovenantchurch.org

